IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO ☞ T.S. 2-160

"K"
D.W.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 11, 1909.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

: Relative to certain Presbyterian
: Mission claims in Alaska.

Mr. H.C. Olin,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Sir:

In response to your letter of November 4, 1909, you are advised that I have received no reply from the local officers at Juneau, Alaska, to my letter of July 27, 1909, relative to the status of the Presbyterian Mission claims at Sitka, Haines, Hoonah, Howkan and Wrangell, Alaska, and I have this day directed them to forward the report immediately.

Very respectfully,

Fred Dennett

Commissioner.

FCR

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church.,

156 5th Ave., New York.

Dear Sir-

In addition to the deficiencies in the showing in support of the application for patent for the Wrangell and Howkan Mission sites, I find that the applications contain no statement that no part of the land is adversely held by any one.

I enclose a circular to assist in preparing the application.

Very respectfully,

C. O. Walker

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau 01318
"K" DW
Sitka Site
Presbyterian Church,
CBW

~~Juneau, Alaska,~~ (Place.)

~~February 23, 1910.~~ (Date.)

The Commissioner, G. L. O.,

Washington, D. C.

Sir-

Referring to your letters of July 27, 1909 and November 11, 09, in the matter of the Sitka Mission site of the Presbyterian Church, I have to state that the papers of the application of the Board of Home Missions of the Church, with application for survey formerly made, ~~plat,~~ field notes, etc., are on filedin this office, without, however, date of filing. The plat of survey does not appear to be with the files, and I have this day notified a representative of the Board in order that he may file the plat, if he has it in his possession

The application is defective in this, that there is no authorizatin of the President of the Board to make the application, nor has the Board filed any evidence of its compliances with the requirements of Chapter 23 of Title III of the Civil Code of Alaska.

I have this day notified the Board of the status of its applicatio

Very respectfully,

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church,

156 5th ave., New York.

Dear Sir-

I enclose copy of letter this day addressed to the Commissioner of the General Land Office in the matter of the Sitka Mission Site.

I have not been able to find that a plat of survey has been filed in this office and have this day requested the Surveyor General to inform me of the disposition made of the plat in that office.

Very respectfully,

C. B. Walker

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, 01311
"K" DW
Mission Site,
Report.
CBW

~~Juneau, Alaska,~~ (Place.)

February 23, 1910. (Date.)

The Commissioner, G. L. O.,

Washington, D. C.

Sir-

Referring to your letters of July 27, 1909 and November 11, 09, in the matter of the Mission site at Hoonah belonging to the Presbyterian Church, I have th state that I have this day issued certificate of entry and that the papers relating thereto will be transmitted to your office with the returns of this office for February.

The certificate issued is in duplicate, but I have not sent t the duplicate to the claimants, for the reason that I am not certain that it embodies all that the Commissioner may wish to incorporate in it.

Very respectfully,

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

H. C. Olin,

Treasurer Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church,

156 5th Ave., New York.

Dear Sir-

I enclose copies of letters this day sent to the Commissioner of the General Land Office in the matter of the Haines and Hoonah mission sites.

Very respectfully,

C. B. Walker

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, 01316
"K" DW
Report as to
Presbyterian Mission
reserve at Howkan,
CBW

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February, 23, 1910.
(Date.)

The Commissioner, G. L. O.,

Washington, D. C.

Sir-

Referring to your letters of July 27, 1909, and November 11, 1909, in the matter of the Presbyterian Mission at Howkan, Alaska, I have to state that I find in the records of this office the plat of survey of the site, the application for the survey survey, and the field notes. There is no record of the time of filing, but the application for survey aprears to have been filed in the Surveyor General's office May 11, 1903. It is signed by S. Hall Young as agent for the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, but there does not appear any authority for him to make the application, nor any evidence of the incorporation of the Board and of its compliance with the terms of Chapter 23 of Title III of the Civil Code of Alaska. However, the evidence of the incorporation will be found with the papers relating to the Sitka mission site.

Although the sufficiency of the proof seems to be a matter that is passed upon by the Surveyor General's office, the regulations state that such proof as the application may be wanting, may be required by the land office before the issuance of the certificate. (See your letter of July 22, 1908).

I have therefore not issued the certificate, but have this day notified the Board of the defects in its proof.

Very respectfully,

Register.

RECEIVED
MAR
1910
TREASURER'S OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,

156 5th Ave., New York.

Dear Sir-

I enclose copy of report this day made to the Commissioner of the General Land Office in the matter of your application for survey and patent for the Mission Site at Howkan.

I would suggest that in lieu of a copy of the incorporation of the Board, that with this and other applications, you file a reference to the application for the Sitka site, wherein the certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation is to be found.

Very respectfully,

C B Walker

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau 01317
K DW
Mission site
Wrangell,
Presbyterian,
Report
CBW

Juneau, (Place) Alaska,

February 23, 1910. (Date)

The Commissioner, G? L. O.,

Washington, D. C.

Sir-

Referring to your letters of July 27, 09, and November 11, 09, in the matter of the Presbyterian Mission Site at Wrangell, Alaska, I have to state that there is on file in this office, without filing mark, but bearing the filing stamp of May 11, 1903 of the office of the Surveyor General, an application for survey and patent by one S. Hall Young, as agent for the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America. There is also a plat of survey and certified copy of the field notes thereof. The application however, is not accompanied by evidence of the authority of Mr. Young to make the application and the showing of fact therein is not sworn to by him; there is also wanting the corroborating affidavits of two witnesses as required. Evidence of the Incorporation of the Board is filed with the papers of its application for the Sitka Site, but there is nothing filed to show that it has complied with the requirements of Chapter 23 of Title III of the Civil Code of Alaska.

I understand that upon the filing of the plat of survey and field notes in this office, that it is the duty of the Register to issue

the certificate. The regulations however, and your letter of July 22, 1908, permit him to require such additional proofs as are necessary, and I have therefore not issued the certificate nor transmitted the papers to your office.

I have this day notified a representative of the Board of the defects in the proof submitted.

Very respectfully,

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

Z. R. Cheney,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir-

I have under date of February 21, 1910, issued certificate of entry in the case of the Haines Mission Site, having found in the files of the office the papers missing at the time you were here.

Very respectfully,

C. F. Lawther

Register

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Juneau, Alaska,
(Place.)

February 23, 1910.
(Date.)

H. C. Olin,

Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions,

of the Presbyterian Church,

156 5th Ave., New York.

Dear Sir-

I enclose copy of letter this day sent to the Commissioner of the General Land office in the matter of the Mission Site at Wrangell.

Very respectfully,

Register.

W.G.Beattie, Superintendent

Geo. J. Beck, Ass't. Superintendent

Sitka Training School

A School for the Industrial Training of Native Alaskans, Conducted by The Woman's Board of Home Missions of The Presbyterian Church, 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

COPY.

SITKA, ALASKA Feby. 23rd, 1910.

The Commissioner G.L.Office,

Washington.

Sir:-

Referring to your letter of July 27, 1909, and Nov. 11, '09 in the matter of the Sitka Mission Site of the Presbyterian Church, I have to state that the papers of the application of the Board of Home Missions of the Church with application for survey form only made field notes, etc. are on file in this office without however date of filing. The plat of survey does not appear to be with the files and I have this day notified a representative of the Board in order that he may file the plat, if he has it in his possession.

The application is defective in this, that there is no authority of the President of the Board to make the application nor has the Board filed any evidence of its compliance with the requirements of Chapt. 23 of Title 3 of the Civil Code of Alaska.

I have this day notified the Board of the Status of its application.

Respectfully,

Walker.

Z. R. CHENEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Juneau, Feb. 24th. 1910.

Rev. A.F.Mc Lean,

Haines, Alaska.

Dear Sir;-

Since our conversation relative to the application for patent to the Mission land at Haines I have been going over the records at the U.S.Land Office with Mr. Walker, the Register, and beg to report thereon as follows; Applications were made by the Board of [redacted] Missions for patent to certain mission land at Sitka, Howkan, Hoonah and Haines; the surveys were made by a Deputy U.S. Land Surveyor, the surveys were filed with the Surveyor General and in due course were approved by that office; the plats for each of these surveys were filed in the U.S.Land office I believe in July 1909 where they have reamined on file ever since: The proofs were made by the Trustees in each case and filed but nothing further had ever been done by the Register and Receiver- no papers were ever forwarded to the General Land Office at Washington - the field notes for the Haines survey were missing entirely nor could the applications themselves be found. I worked with Mr. Walker and after several days search we found all the papers and he took the matter up. I was down to his office and went over the matter with him again today with the following result; He has accepted the proofs in the Haines survey and issued the final certificate, and I believe also in the Hoonah survey, the others are held up for lack of proof.

I am surprised that the Board of Missions did not employ an attorney to look after these surveys and attend to the filing of the necessary proofs long before this- they have been trying to accomplish the work by correspondence but that is a very unsatisfactory way

Z. R. CHENEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

to get business attended to in the Land Office here where they have a hundred times as much work as they can attend to properly- the only way to get results in these land matters is to have an attorney who lives in Juneau employed and who will devote his personal attention to the work. Every foreign corporation that has applications before this land office for patents has its regularly employed attorneys to attend to the matter.

Now I have taken this matter up and gone through with it so far as the Haines Mission is concerned and the final receipt has been issued and unless I am employed by the board to act further in the obtaining of patents to the other surveys which are held up I will take no further action in the matter. Of course, Mr. McLean, I do not want you to understand that I am under the impression that you employed me to do the work in conection with the Haines property, which I have done, nor do I expect to be compensated for my work, unless the Board should feel like granting me some compensation, however I should be pleased to have you take the matter up with the Board and recommend such action on their part provided you are so disposed. I make a specialty of land office work and they will need some legal services in getting the other patents through to final certificates. I am on very friendly terms with the officials and can accomplish more in one day than the Board can accomplish through six months corrospondence.

I shall be gland to hear from you at any time.

Yours very truly,

Z. R. Cheney

Z. R. CHENEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Juneau, Alaska. Feb. 24th. 1910.

Rev. A.F.McLean,

Haines, Alaska.

Dear Sir -

Under seperate cover I am mailing you a letter giving a report on the condition of the Haines survey which we talked of when you were in Juneau and which I told you I would take up with the Land Office.

If you feel disposed to do so I would like to have you take the matter up with the Board in the east and recommend that they employ me to look after their surveys here in the Land Office- it is very evident that they need some one to attend to this work if they ever expect to get their patents through, and as I have so much business at the office I am in a position to attend to it for the Board.

If you write the Board you might send them a copy of my other letter, that is why I am writing this personal letter seperately to you. I have been looking up the law and I find that there is no reason why the Board could not sell some of their land there if they so desire especially now as they have, or will in a few days have, their final certificate for the land, and in this connection will say that if the Board should desire my legal services I would be willing to take a lot in compensation and you might suggest that in your letter to the Board or if that would not be satisfactory find out if you can whether they will sell any of the land in the near future. The Register of the Land office will write today and forward the final receipt so that the Board will be notified through the office before they get you letter.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Very truly yours,

Z. R. Cheney

Z. R. CHENEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Juneau, Alaska. Feb. 27 - 10

Rev. A.F.Mc Lean,

Haines, Alaska.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed herewith please find the official notification of the action of the Register of the Land Office in re survey for the Mission site at Haines. The papers in this case have all been forwarded to the Commissioner of the General Land Office and you may advise the Board to that effect.

Very truly yours,

Z. R. Cheney

REV. A. F. MCLEAN
HAINES, ALASKA

Mch 25th 1910.

Mr Harvy C. Olin.
New York,

Dear Mr Olin:- Iam sending you several letters received from Mr Cheney a Juneau Attorney with reference to surveys etc. Some time ago I was in Juneau and Mr Cheny approached me on the question of renting or purchasing a lot on our Mission property at Haines. Thus it was that Mr Cheney became intrested in the Mission holdings. I think he is fair and would look after the intrests of the Board if employed. And I think it would help matters in hastening the securing of patents to our property had we an attorney to push matters.

I have not heard anything with reference to Railway since the surveyor left here in the fall.

With kind regards,

A. F. McLean.

W.G.Beattie, Superintendent Geo. J. Beck, Ass't. Superintendent

Sitka Training School

A School for the Industrial Training of Native Alaskans, Conducted by The Woman's Board of Home Missions of The Presbyterian Church, 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

COPY

Juneau, Alaska ~~SITKA, ALASKA~~ March 31st, 1910.

W. G. Beattie, Supt.,
Sitka Training School,
Sitka, Alaska.

In re- Form of Lease.

Dear Sir:-

Referring again to your letter of Feby 19th, with reference to the above matter, I beg to say that I have been delayed in taking it up by other matters which I had to postpone on account of absence from Juneau. In going over the matter I observed that you have not received patent for the land and I went into the Land Office to ascertain the present status of the ground. In conversation with Mr. Walker, the new register of the Land Office, he stated to me, that he had already communicated with the Commissioner of the General Land Office with reference to the matter and ~~that~~ the representative of the Board in the state of New York, but had heard nothing from it. With his permission I took a copy of the letter which was written on Feby 23 and enclose a copy of the letter to you.

You will note that he writes, "the plat of survey does not appear to be in the files". After going over the matter of the plat with Mr. Walker he made an investigation in the office and found there the plat of survey certified by the Surveyor General.

In ordinary applications for land, it is required that the plat be filed in duplicate but Mr. Walker thinks that at this time, that it will not be necessary to file another copy so that the obstacle seems to have been removed.

In the last paragraph of his letter to the commissioner he states, "the application is defective in this, that there is no authority of the President of the Board to make the application nor has the Board filed any evidence of its compliance with the requirement of Chapter 23 of Title 3 of the Civil Code of Alaska."

3/31/10

COPY

Sitka Training School

A School for the Industrial Training of Native Alaskans, Conducted by The Woman's Board of Home Missions of The Presbyterian Church, 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

SITKA, ALASKA

In an examination of the papers filed, I find that on page 3 of the application, which is filed in the land office here, it is stated that on Nov. 27, 1907 (this date I give from my recollection, I am not sure that it is correct) the Board duly authorized its President, D. Stuart Dodge, and its Secretary, C. L. Thompson, to make the application and that a certified copy of the action of the Board is attached to the application. In making it up, the person who put together the papers comprising the application, has evidently omitted the certified copy of the action of the Board for it is not attached to the application and is not filed among the papers. This, of course, should have been done and is, I believe, really the only omission which is holding the matter back at this time; though the persons who signed the application, that is Mr. Dodge and Mr. Thompson, have not verified it.

With reference to that part of Mr. Walker's letter referring to the omission to comply with Chapter 23 of Title 3 of the Civil Code providing requirements for foreign corporations in Alaska, I have to say, that in my opinion "this chapter was enacted solely to cover business corporations and was not intended to apply to religious or elemosynary corporations." Mr. Walker and I talked the matter over briefly and he said so far as he was concerned at this time he would not require the compliance with that statute, but that the matter was up to the Commissioner of the General Land Office at this time, and he did not know what he would require.

I have gone into this matter somewhat fully with you, though you did not request me to examine it as I desired to have the information before drafting the contract. I am working on the contract at the present time and will endeavor to get it off to you on the next Georgia.

Sitka Training School

COPY

A School for the Industrial Training of Native Alaskans, Conducted by The Woman's Board of Home Missions of The Presbyterian Church, 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

SITKA, ALASKA

I note what I had overlooked in my acknowledgement of the receipt of your letter, and that ~~it~~ is, that you ~~may~~ say that if the cost exceeds fifteen dollars you wish me to advise you before I proceed with the matter. From an examination of the data which you have sent me and the old contract I think that it will take some time to draft the contract and the work will probably be worth more. However, I will prepare the contract and send it over to you, as when it is completed, I can tell you better what the work is worth than I can now. In any event you may be sure that I will make no trouble over the price.

Yours truly,

Royal A. Gunnison.

RAG/BFD

W.G.Beattie, Superintendent Geo. J. Beck, Ass't. Superintendent

Sitka Training School

A School for the Industrial Training of Native Alaskans, Conducted by The Woman's Board of Home Missions of The Presbyterian Church, 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

SITKA, ALASKA April 16, 1910.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Olin:-

I am sending you a copy of a letter from Mr. R. A. Gunnison, former U.S.Circuit Judge and now a practising attorney, relative to defects in applications for patent for our land. I also enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Commissioner of the General Land office at Washington, D. C., written by the present Register of the Land Office at Juneau. The latter part of Judge Gunnison's letter refers to a lease or contract which I have asked him to draw up to use for those natives known as the Cottagers who have houses on our land. They have given me a bit of trouble the past winter. The old contracts made years ago have never been lived up to and are not legal anyway. I did not ask him to look up the other matter but am glad he did. I thought possibly that his letter would aid you some in getting the matter straightened so that we can secure the title.

Chapter23 - Title 3, Civil Code District of Alaska can be found, if you wish to look it up in the Supplement to Revised Statutes of the United States, Vol. II, (1892 - 1901), page 1404. I took occasion to look this up while in the Deputy U.S.Marshal's office the other day. You will note that in Judge Gunnison's opinion this does not apply to the Board but to purely business corporations. Of course it remains for the Commissioner at Washington to say whether it is necessary to comply with this section of the law. Judge Gunnison is a conscientious man, I think, and is certainly pretty well acquainted with laws pertaining to Alaska.

If the copies of letters enclosed are of any value in hastening our securing a patent, I shall be glad indeed. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. G. Beattie

April 20th, 1910.

Rev. A. F. McLean,

Haines, Alaska.

Dear Mr. McLean:-

Your letter of March 25th, with the accompanying correspondence from Mr. Cheney, the Juneau attorney, is at hand.

This matter will be laid before the officers of our Board and the Finance Committee, and definite reply made at an early date.

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

O/S

May 17th, 1910.

Mr. W. G. Beattie,
Sitka, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Beattie:-

I thank you for your letter of April 16th with which you enclosed a copy of the letter received by you from former U. S. Circuit Judge Gunnison.

When the papers were made up making formal application for the patent to the Sitka land, we followed very carefully and explicitly the instructions laid down by the government, and all the papers which we have been advised by the register at Juneau are missing from the file, were included with the original application.

As evidence of this fact, we have a letter dated February 23rd, 1910, signed by C. B. Walker, Register of the U. S. Land Office at Juneau, stating that he has not been able to find that a plat of survey has been filed in his office, in the matter of the Sitka Mission site. Judge Gunnison's letter to you of March 31st stated that this plat of survey has been found. It is quite evident that Mr. Walker's predecessor or his assistants at that time were very lax in properly caring for the papers which were filed with him.

We were also informed that a certified copy of the action of the Board, authorizing the President and Secretary of the Board to sign the application for the Sitka land, was not on file. Such a paper was included with the original application. To remove any doubt in the matter, I enclose a certified copy of the action of the Board taken at its regular meeting held September 12th, 1907. Will you forward this certification fo the Register at Juneau, and ascertain what further papers, if any, are necessary to complete the application of the Board in the above matter?

Yours sincerely,

Treasurer.

B/B
(Enclosure)

June 7th, 1910.

Royal A. Gunnison, Esq.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

This Board has within the past three years made application for a patent to the mission lands occupied this many years past at Sitka, Haines, Wrangell, Howkan and Hoonah, Alaska.

These applications were made out in accordance with instructions contained in the "circular from the General Land Office", issued January 13th, 1904, a copy of which we have on file.

Letters received two months ago from the register at Juneau, Alaska, indicate that certain papers which we executed and filed with the application cannot be found in his office.

It is quite evident that Mr. Walker's predecessor, or the latter's assistants have been very lax in properly caring for papers which were filed with him, as is shown by the fact that papers which Mr. Walker stated were not on file, were found by you at the time you made the search in the register's office last March.

We have come to the conclusion that to attempt to perfect the Board's applications for patent from a point so far distant from the field of action, will be a tedious and unsatisfactory proceeding. We therefore, wish to place in your hands the matter of looking after the Board's interest in connection with these applications, which commission we place upon the excellent recommendation made in your behalf by Rev. L. F. Jones of Juneau, and of Mr. W. G. Beattie, Superintendent of our Training School at Sitka. We are therefore prepared to send you such additional data as may be required, in order to complete the applications now on file, either through omissions on our part, or because of original papers, forwarded with the application, found missing from the government files.

I now make the following enclosures:-

1st. Certified extract from the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board, held June 16th, 1904, showing the regular appointment of Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D. of Skagway, Alaska, as its agent in the district of Alaska.

2nd. Certified extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Board held March 15th, 1906,

showing the re-appointment of Rev. S. Hall Young, and in the event he is unable to act as such agent, then the appointment of Rev. L. F. Jones of Juneau, is made.

3rd. A Certified copy of the action of the Board at its regular meeting held September 12th, 1907, appointing D. Stuart Dodge, its President, and Charles L. Thompson, its Secretary, as its duly authorized representatives to sign the application for patent to the Sitka land.

We have not before us a copy of Chapter 23, Title 3 of the Civil Code of Alaska, hence the alleged failure of the Board to comply with the requirements of that Chapter cannot be answered in this communication.

If, as you stated your opinion to Mr. Beattie in your letter to him of March 31st, "this Chapter was enacted solely to cover business corporations, and was not intended to apply to religious or elemosynary corporations", then it will be a very simple matter for the Board to furnish you with the additional papers referred to in Mr. Walker's letters to this office.

The Board has filed a certified copy of its articles of incorporation with the Clerk of the District Court, First Division, District of Alaska at Juneau; a reference to such files may be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Register on this point. We are ready, however, to file through you, additional certificates of incorporation of this Board if required.

The Board files each year, both with the Secretary of the District at Sitka, and with the Clerk of the District Court at Juneau, an annual statement about the first of July of each year, showing its capital stock, assets and of what they consist and actual cash value, and its liabilities. These all refer to business corporations, of course, but we have thus far complied with the letter of the law in filing such statements.

I would be glad to learn, if your opinion will be upheld by the Alaskan authorities, so that we may not be called upon to file what we consider a most unnecessary and uncalled for statement.

In considering the matter of your bill for services to be rendered, I am quite sure from what has been said concerning you by both Mr. Jones and Mr. Beattie, that you will take into careful consideration, the nature of the Board's work, and how the funds to carry on same are raised; of course, you can appreciate that every dollar saved in the matter of general expenses, leaves just so many dollars more available for the carrying on, and extension of the work of Home Missions in our great and growing country. I can appreciate it will not be possible for you to make any definite statement as to what your charge will be for the work now placed in your hands, in accordance with

the foregoing, but I only ask that you view the Board in a somewhat different light, than you would an ordinary business corporation, when submitting your bill for services rendered.

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

B/B

(Enclosure)

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

June 20th, 1910.

Harvey C. Olin, Treas.,
Board of Home Missions;
156-5th Ave.,
New York City.

In re- Patent to Mission Land.

Dear sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 7th in reference to the above matter together with the enclosures. I am called to Sitka the latter part of this week on business and immediately on my return I will take up the matter of your Mission Lands and try and straighten out the tangle.

I understand from your letter that you wish me to look after the applications for Patents at the places mentioned, to-wit: Sitka, Haines, Wrangell, Howkan and Hoonah.

I note what you say with reference to the matter of my bill for services and beg to assure you that in making up my bill when the time shall arrive, ~~that~~ I shall take into consideration the nature of the Board and the matter in which the funds for the carrying on of your work is raised.

Very truly yours,

Royal A. Gunnison

RAG/BFD

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

August 26th, 1910.

H. C. Olin, Treas.,
The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

In re- Mission Sites
Alaska.

Dear sir:-

After receiving your letter of June 7th I immediately took up with the Land Office the matter of acquiring title to the various Mission lands occupied by your Board in Alaska. While talking with the Register of the Land Office Mr. Z. R. Cheney, an attorney in Juneau, came in and I ascertained from him, that sometime prior to the time of our meeting he had been requested by the Rev. Mr. McLean of the Haines Mission to look into the matter of the Haines and Hoonah sites and that after going over the matter with the Register of the Land Office the papers in those two matters were sent on to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. He further said to me, that he had notified Mr. McLean of the result of his actions in the Land Office but had never heard from him. I asked him if he considered that he had been retained in the matter and he said, that he did not feel that there was anything definite about it; that he thought that his services in the matter were worth $50.00 and I told him that I would present this matter to you. I think myself that $50.00 would be a reasonable compensation for what he had done. I then read to him portions of your letter and he said that he did not consider himself retained generally in the matter, I then said to him, that I would take the matter up and go on with it.

Referring now to the Haines and Hoonah sites, I beg to say, that on the 15th of August I was advised by the Register of the Land Office at Juneau, that duplicate certificates of entry for the Mission sites at Hoonah and at Haines had been issued on February 21st and February 23rd respectively for the Board of Home Missions. The Hoonah site for 15.16 acres and the Haines site for 266.54 acres. In both instances I believe the amount of land for which you sought patent has been reduced. The Register of the Land Office further advised me that the proof in each case was sufficient except that there was no proof of the incorporation of the Board of Home Missions to be found in the record of either case and that sixty days would be allowed for the filing of such proof in the local Land Office. In the event that the required proof, to-wit: the certificate of Incorporation is furnished to the Register he will deliver the patent to the representative of the corporation. They also request that I furnish them with a certificate of my authority to represent the Board. I have your letter of June 7th of course, but did not deem it advisable to file that and have to request that you furnish forthwith a short letter authorizing me to appear for you in each of these cases, to-wit: the Sitka, Haines, Wrangell, Howkan and Hoonah applications for patent. I think it would be advisable if you were to send me a separate one in each matter. Now as to the proof of incorporation of the Board, there is a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Board of Home Missions filed in the matter of the applications for a site at Sitka and that, I think, will be sufficient for the Sitka, Wrangell and Howkan applications, but I think that there should be another certified

copy of the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Haines and Hoonah matter and, therefore, request that you forward to me immediately a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Board to be filed in the case of the Haines matter. I can make that certified copy do for the Haines and Hoonah matter.

I find that the Board of Home Missions has filed a certified copy of its Articles of Incorporation in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Juneau and I also find that the Board has neglected to file a similar copy of the Articles in the office of the Secretary of the Interior, as required by the statute, and I have to suggest that you forward to me at once a certified copy for filing in the office of the secretary of the Territory. I will send to you in a few days other blanks to be filled out with reference to the appointment of a resident agent for the Company.

Now as to the applications for the Sitka, Wrangell and Howkan sites, I spent sometime in the Land Office going over these matters and have had copies of the papers in the several offices made.

As to the Sitka Site:- The Register of the Land Office advises me, that he will forward the papers with reference to the Sitka application to the General Land Office, though there is some doubt in his mind as to the sufficiency of the corroborating affidavits and as to the authority of the original applicants, either Dr. Hall or Dr. Jackson to make the application for the Board. He says, however, that he will consider the application made in 1907 as a ratification of the application made by them. The original application made by Dr. S. Hall Young sought to have 518.35 acres set apart as Mission site and to have a patent issued therefor. In

September 1907 the Board made a further application for a patent of 352.85 acres. This application was made after the original survey by Mr. Davidson, the engineer, and practically accepted the acreage as allowed by him. You will see that this cuts down the area sought in the original petition some 166 acres or more. The Act of June 6th, 1900 provides "That the Indians or persons conducting schools, or Missions in the District shall not be disturbed in the possession of any land now actually in their use and occupation, and the land at any station not exceeding 640 acres occupied as Mission Stations among the Indian tribes in the section, that the improvements thereon elected by and for Societies shall be continued in the occupancy of the several religious societies to which the Missionary Stations respectively belong and the secretary of the Interior is hereby directed to have said land surveyed in compact form as nearly as practicable and patents issued for the same to the several Socities to which they belong.###." It is necessary under this Statute to show the actual use of the land for missionary purposes and the date, and that it embraces the improvements of the applicant society or organization. It is also necessary to show that no portion of land is held adversely to the Society under rights of prior inception. It seems that a considerable portion, if not all, of the land excluded from the survey of the U.S. Deputy Surveyor consists of wood land and that the reason for its rejection is, that this wood land has not been actually occupied or appropriated by the mission. It must be evident to any one who stops to consider that the Mission will need some land from which to draw wood for fuel and would be entitled to a wood lot and it is possible that a showing can be made which would bring back into the survey at least a portion of the land now excluded. However, if the Board is satisfied with the

amount of ground ~~excluded~~ included, to-wit: 352.85 acres I will at once request the Register of the Land Office to forward the Sitka papers to the General Land Office. Kindly advise me of your wishes in this matter.

WRANGELL SITE: The application for the site at Wrangell was made on the 11th of May, 1903, and asks for 8.98 acres. The survey allows 7.72 acres. The application is uncorroborated by two witness as required by the land laws and there is no statement as to there being no adverse claimants to the ground, nor is there any ratification of S. Hall Young of his making the application, nor is there any evidence of the Incorporation of the Board. If you are satisfied with the amount of land set aside by the survey, which is only 1.24 ~~of an~~ less than you originally sought acre, I will secure the corroborating affidavits as to actual use and occupancy and as to the absence of adverse claims and will arrange to take up the other matters in connection with it and have that sent on. Kindly advise me as to your wishes in this matter.

HOWKAN SITE:- The original application for a patent of land at Howkan was made on May 11th, 1903 and was for 468 acres. The return of the U. S. Deputy Surveyor is for but 3.81 acres; the surveyor stating in his certificate that the balance of the land has not been under actual occupancy by the Board. In this application there is lacking the corroborative affidavits, proof as to the absence of adverse claims and as to the absence of ratification of S. Hall Young, or any evidence of the corporation existence of the Board. If you are satisfied with the acerage set aside in this matter kindly advise me and I will proceed with the necessary steps to have the papers sent on.

It is absolutely essential that the matters referred to

in the beginning of this letter be taken up forthwith for if my authority to appear in the Haines and Hoonah matter and the cretified copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Board are not here to be filed before the 14th of October the Register of the Land Office will return the papers to the Commissioner and the land will revert to the government and again become a portion of the public domain.

Very truly yours,

Ragnar Lunnicord

RAG/BFD

COPY September 16th, 1910.

Royal A. Gunnison, Esq.

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir:-

Confirming my letter to you of June 7th last, in which we requested you to take up the matter of looking after the applications for patent filed in the local land office at Juneau, I now enclose a certified copy of the action of the Board taken at a regular meeting held yesterday, in which my action in engaging you to look after our land matters at Sitka, Haines, Wrangell, Howkan, and Hoonah has been approved and formally confirmed by the Board.

That you may have opportunity to file separate authority in each case if desirable, I enclose five separate copies of the Resolution.

I also enclose two certificates of the incorporation of this Board by the Legislature of the state of New York, certified to by the Secretary of State, one of which you desire for filing with the Secretary of the Interior, and the other for filing in connection with the applications for patents in the Haines and Hoonah sites, upon presentation of which to the Register of the land office at Juneau, he will deliver to you as representative of the Board, patents to the above sites.

As to the Sitka Site.

The application made in September, 1907, for a patent of 352.85 acres, is hereby confirmed, and you are now authorized to request the Register of the land office to forward papers in connection with the application to the general land office.

As to the Wrangell Site.

The application made on the 11th of May, 1903, a survey for which allows only 7.72 acres, is confirmed as being satisfactory to the Board. We will be glad to have you secure the necessary corroborating affidavits as to the actual use and occupancy of this land, and also as to the absence of adverse claims as soon as may be possible.

As to the Howkan Site.

You state that the original application for patent for this land made on May 11th, 1903, was for 486 acres, and that by the report of the U. S. Deputy Surveyor but 3.81 acres are allowed. In this case I wish you would write to Rev. David Waggoner of Klawock, our representative at Howkan, stating the facts, and ascertain from him if the 3.81 acres is all the land that he now occupies and will require. If his answer is satisfactory, you are then authorized without further reference to this office to accept on behalf of the Board the allotment provided for by the official survey, and proceed to have the necessary papers prepared to complete the application in due form.

Now, as to all the foregoing, you will understand that you have full authority to proceed with all reasonable dispatch in conducting the Board's interests in the above matters to a favorable conclusion, so that we may in due time receive the desired patents for the five properties named in the Resolution voted by the Board.

I should have stated in connection with the Haines and Hoonah site matters, that the Board accepts the report of Hoonah for 15.16 acres, and for the Haines site 266.54 acres.

Regarding the services rendered by Mr. Z. R. Cheney, we are willing to accept your recommendation this his services thus far have been worth $50. and that he will accept that sum in full payment as his compensation for all services rendered to date. I would be glad to have you turn over to him the enclosed check and to secure his receipt therefor as in full of all services rendered. Mr. Cheney has never presented a bill to the Board, but we are disposed to meet his wishes in this matter in view of the moderate charge he makes.

I believe the foregoing fully answers your letter of the 26th ult. You of course will feel free to write me regarding any matters that may come up concerning which you need help or advice, but so far as I can now see you are in a position to go right ahead with the whole matter without further reference to the Board.

We will be glad to hear from you whenever you have anything definite to communicate.

Very truly yours,

B/W

Treasurer.

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Sept. 29th, 1910.

Harvey C. Olin, Treas.,
Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear sir:-

I have your letter of Sept. 16th, enclosing duplicate certified copies of the Articles of Incorporation of the Board; also certified copy of the Resolutions of the Board authorizing me to act as the Board's representative in the matter of the land titles for the Missions in Alaska. Also check for $50.00 for Mr. Cheney and note your instructions in the matter. I shall proceed with the various matters referred to at once and will communicate with you as to results.

Yours truly,

Royal A. Gunnison

RAG/BFD.
Enclosure.

P.S. I have just paid Mr. Cheney and am enclsing the receipt herewith.

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Oct. 17th, 1910.

Board of Home Missions of the
Presbyterian Church,

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York City, N.Y.

In re- Haines and Hoonah
Mission Sites.

Dear sirs:-

I have filed the authority to appear for the Board in the several Land Officesmatters and am now waiting for the return of Mr. Walker, the Register of the Land Office, who is now in Portland, Oregon, on official business, as I am informed. Nothing can be done in these matters until he returns. Immediately after his return I will see him and communicate with you further.

Yours truly,

Royal A. Gunnison

RAG/BFD